[English]

Nepali Citizens in India

1319. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated number of citizens of Nepal, as distinct from Indian nationals of Nepali origin, residing in India, State-wise as on April 1, 1991;

(b) whether the Government are aware of the continuous flow of such persons from Nepal into Indian territory;

(c) if so, the steps being taken to stop the infiltration; and

(d) the steps taken to identify the Indian citizens and Nepalese citizens, lawfully residing in the border areas, and distinguish them from fresh immigrants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) to (d) Under the Indo-Nepali Treaty, free movement of Nepali citizens in any part of India, other than the protected/restricted areas is allowed. The Passport (Entry into India) Rules, 1950 do not apply if the Nepalese nationals enter India by land or by air from Nepal to India. Similarly, under the Registration of Foreigners (Exemption) Order, 1957 the Nepali nationals are exempted from registration. In view of this, no record is maintained about the movement or stay of Nepali citizens within the country.

Deterioration in Postal Services

1320. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the deterioration in postal services in small towns and villages of the country;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to improve the postal services in these areas;

(c) the number of post offices in the urban and rural areas separately and the average population served by each urban and rural post office, State-wise as on April 1, 1991; and

(d) the number of posts of E.D.-V.P.Ms and postman vacant, as on April, 1991 and the steps being taken to fill them?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) There are a few complaints about delays in mails in small towns and villages of the country.

(b) The steps contemplated to improve the services are as follows:

(i) Monitoring the delivery system in rural areas;

(ii) Effect delivery of accountable mail twice in a day instead of once in urban areas;

(iii) Improve funding of Post Offices in rural areas and increase the limit of cash entrusted to postman in villages for prompt payment of money orders;

(iv) Improve date stamp impressions on articles of mail.

(v) To motivate the postal employees, it is proposed to give the Best Postman Award on quarterly basis for each Postal Division in the country.

(c) Statement attached to this reply.

(d) Number of vacant post of Postmen and Extra Departmental Delivery Agents is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as early as possible.